

148. The revenue from grass in the *Poona Division* came to Rs. 2,923-5-0; no grazing is permitted in the valuable kurans; 19,118 acres of reserved forest in the neighbourhood of the city of Poona are placed at the disposal of the Commissariat Department at Poona, for the supply of hay to feed Government cattle and horses belonging to the Military Department. Some of the best grass-producing lands are thus disposed of: the value of the grass on account of which no charge is made upon the Military Department is estimated to be Rs. 25,850, which is a dead loss to the forest revenues, and a loss of Rs. 12,925 to the Provincial Service Budget.

149. In the *Sátára Division* it is estimated that about 3,500 tons of fodder grass were extracted from the forests. The area of the valuable kurans which were sold for grass cutting was about 10,458 acres, and they realized about Rs. 5,900.

150. The grass in all the closed forests of the *Sholápur Division* is put up to auction sale for extraction by hand, and a fair proportion of it is sold; about 35,936 acres found purchasers, and Rs. 15,065 were obtained in this way.

(2). *Grazing.*

151. In all open forests in the *Khándesh District* grazing is allowed on payment of fees; no grazing is sold by auction in the two divisions of *Khándesh*. The rates of fees charged are as under :—

<i>For Cultivators.</i>				Rs.	a.	p.
For each buffalo	...	...	...	...	0	8 0
„ cow, horse or ass	...	...	...	...	0	4 0
„ sheep	...	...	...	...	0	1 0
<i>For Professional Graziers.</i>				Rs.	a.	p.
For each buffalo	...	...	...	...	1	0 0
„ cow, &c.	...	...	...	...	0	8 0
„ sheep	...	...	...	...	0	2 0
„ goat	...	...	...	...	0	8 0

In the wilder portions of the district the cultivators' cattle pay half-fees, but privilege-holders, Bhils and inhabitants of forest settlements, graze their cattle free of charge.

152. In the *East Khándesh Division* the whole of the *Sátputá* forests, with the exception of 3,613 acres, and all the open forests in the *South Tápti* ranges, were made available for grazing, and 191,771 head of cattle of different kinds entered and pastured therein on payment of fees, while to 8,893 animals free grazing was given.

The grazing receipts came to Rs. 54,640, or Rs. 5,096 less than of the year before; the decrease being attributable to fewer animals having been sent from foreign territory to find grazing in the *East Khándesh* forests, owing possibly to a good grass season over the border.

153. In the *West Khándesh Division* 387,465 animals were grazed inside the forests during the twelve months ending 31st March 1893, and 60,841 animals paid fees during April, May and June, so that altogether 451,306 animals grazed on payment of fees aggregating Rs. 98,267, while 24,862 animals enjoyed free grazing of the value of Rs. 5,574.

154. In the other divisions of *Násik*, *Ahmednagar*, *Poona*, *Sátára* and *Sholápur* the schedule of grazing fees is as under :—

Kind of Animals.				PERMITS ISSUED BY VILLAGE OFFICERS.		PERMITS ISSUED BY FOREST OFFICERS.
				Cultivators' Cattle.	Professional Graziers.	Outside Cattle.
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Buffaloes, each	...	...	...	0 8 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Cows	...	...	...	0 4 0	0 8 0	0 8 0
Horses and asses	...	...	...	0 4 0	0 8 0	0 8 0
Sheep	...	...	...	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
Goats	...	...	...	0 2 0	0 4 0	0 4 0

155. In the *Násik Division* 172,848 cattle of different kinds, including 55,370 sheep and goats, grazed in the forests on payment of fees, and 49,552 cattle,

including 4,592 sheep and goats in the Peint Range, enjoyed free grazing. The fodder grass and grazing revenue amounted to Rs. 59,377-3-3, or nearly Rs. 8,220 less than of the previous year. The decrease is said to be owing to foreign cattle having come in fewer numbers to find grazing in the Násik forests.

156. The valuable kurans of the *Ahmednagar Division* extend over 3,901 acres, and the right of grass and grazing in them sold for Rs. 3,297, while 279,519 acres of open forests were made available for grazing on payment of fees, by which a sum of Rs. 33,650 was realized. There was considerable illicit grazing in the forests, owing to village cattle-owners neglecting to take out grazing permits, and to village officers neglecting to see that their villagers who own cattle and habitually graze those animals in the forests, were supplied with grazing permits, so that a sum of Rs. 4,730 was recovered under Section 67 of the Forest Act for damage done by illicit grazing. But there is a marked improvement in this respect. 108,817 cattle of the bovine species and 54,653 cattle of the ovine kinds were grazed within the forests, and these figures show an increase of 17,147 of the former, and 13,850 of the latter, on the figures of 1891-92, which is said to be owing to the fact that villagers are recognizing that it is more profitable to them to take out grazing permits on payment of the low rates of fees demanded than to fail to do so, and graze their animals illicitly, at the risk of the cattle being caught and impounded. Nearly 65,342 acres of forests distributed over 9 ranges are specially assigned for sheep grazing; and 54,651 of these animals took advantage of this provision on payment of fees.

157. In the villages along the Western Gháts of the Poona Division the right of grazing in the open forests is sold by auction; and thus out of a total grazing revenue amounting to Rs. 40,139-11-6, Rs. 11,546-3-0 were realized from fees and Rs. 28,593-8-6 by auction sales. The revenue shows a decline of Rs. 2,067 compared with the figures of 1891-92. In this division the number of cattle given free grazing is very large indeed, amounting to 105,188, and exceeding by no less than 14,992, the number of cattle in respect of which fees were paid for forest grazing. The village officers are seemingly very liberal in their differentiation of cattle between the privileged and the paying: and they are also seemingly very backward in issuing permits to village cattle-owners, and connive with the latter in defrauding the grazing revenues.

158. Grazing is permitted on contract in 37,013 acres and 36 gunthás, comprising the best pasturing portion of the reserved forests in the *Sátára Division*, into which no sheep or goats are permitted. There are, in addition thereto, 271,153 acres of open forests throughout the division made available to grazing where fee-paying and free cattle are admitted to graze side by side. The more valuable pasture lands realized Rs. 20,264-3-6 at the auction sale of grazing; the valuable kurans reserved for exploitation of grass by hand realized Rs. 5,900-7-9, while fee grazing gave a revenue of Rs. 8,710-7-6, and a sum of Rs. 1,885-7-3 was obtained by sale of grass from closed forests. It is a remarkable fact that the number of cattle grazed on payment of fees was only 76,758 in the open forests, while the very large number of 290,419 cattle were given free grazing. Like in the Poona Division so in the *Sátára Division* the differentiation of privileged and paying cattle has been made with extreme liberality; indeed it is doubtful whether there has been adequate scrutiny of the lists, or proper supervision of the proceedings of the village officers in this matter, who are seemingly very reluctant to issue grazing permits and to collect grazing fees from village cattle-owners, for 47,994 cattle were impounded for illicit grazing, of which number 17,276 were caught in open forests, and it would have been more profitable to their owners to have taken out permits.

159. The *Sholapur Division* has returned a comparatively large revenue, amounting to Rs. 24,086-13-8, from grass and grazing. The valuable kurans spread over 35,936 acres in 52 villages, and the grass in them was sold for exploitation by hand. The open forests, in addition to the kurans in which free and free grazing was allowed, measured 46,066 acres, wherein 27,345 cattle grazed on payment of fees, and 11,383 cattle were permitted to enter on free permits of the value of Rs. 2,416-8-0. The total grass and grazing revenue amounted to Rs. 24,086-13-8—a figure which compares very favourably with the results shown in the Poona and *Sátára divisions*, the total forest area of the former being 741 square miles and of the latter 693, square miles, against 278 square miles of the *Sholapur Division*.

160. The cattle census of the different districts comprising the Central Circle will be seen in the following statement :—

No.	Collectorate.	Cows and Bullocks.	Buffaloes.	Horses.	Asses and Mules.	Sheep.	Goats.	Camels.	Elephants.	Total.
1	Khândesh ...	746,849	194,360	24,812	8,299	226,720		7	...	1,201,047
2	Násik ...	514,561	73,009	15,040	3,150	120,950	157,900	1	...	884,611
3	Ahmednagar ...	677,599	57,379	24,251	8,188	325,823	256,024	8	...	1,349,272
4	Poona ...	490,932	68,199	13,373	5,248	224,472	148,447	103	...	950,774
5	Sátára ...	516,225	152,659	15,415	2,648	355,711	115,547	4	...	1,158,209
6	Sholápur ...	435,733	64,307	12,896	3,906	249,252	133,841	...	...	899,935
	Total ...	3,331,899	609,913	105,787	31,439	1,276,203	811,759	123	...	6,443,848
						226,720				

(3). *Miscellaneous Produce.*

161. Under this heading come flowers, fruits, honey, wax, surface soil, rock and minerals, reeds, oil, bark, &c., &c.

Rosha oil (*Andropogon schoenanthus*) is manufactured in the Khândesh and Násik districts from a particular lemon grass of great fragrance which grows wild in the forests. The contract is sold by auction or tender, and the number of furnaces to be erected, and the rate to be charged per still, are arranged and specified in the contractor's agreement. The revenue derived from this source amounted to about Rs. 15,098-14-6.

162. Hirda nuts, fruit of the *Terminalia chebula*, are collected in the moist forests along the Western Gháts where the tree grows in profusion.

In the Násik Division the right of collecting and taking the nuts from the Government trees in the forests during the season is sold by auction, forest by forest, and is knocked down to the highest bidder; the purchaser pays in kind, and not in money, and the nuts, which are paid in at the forest-depôts, are then sold by auction or tender.

In the Ahmednagar Division the hirda nuts are brought from the forests to forest depôt houses centrally situated by forest villagers. The outturn was very small—only about 54 khandis, 8 maunds and 16 pounds, each khandi being of 784 pounds. The cost amounted to Rs. 582-11-3, while the nuts sold for Rs. 745-11-0. There has been a steady decline in the hirdas brought to the forest depôts since 1888-89, and no doubt it is greatly due to pilfering from the forests. The quality of the nuts this season was bad owing to late rains, and consequently the selling price was comparatively very low; it declined from Rs. 73-4-0 in 1891-92 to Rs. 45.

In the Poona Division, hirdas are exploited on the share system, the right is sold by auction, and the purchase-money is paid in kind; and in this way 169 khandis, 16 maunds and 2 pounds were brought into the forest depôts, and were subsequently sold for Rs. 3,679-1-4. Compared with the previous year there is a decided falling off both in quantities and in prices, the season having been a bad one.

In the Sátára Division a large quantity of hirda nuts was brought to the different forest depôts along the gháts by the forest villagers, who were paid at fixed rates; 824 khandis, 16 maunds and 16 pounds were thus received, the deshi khandi of Sátára equalling 1,920 pounds. The price paid for these nuts to the forest villagers amounted to Rs. 6,268-4-11, which must be a very appreciable addition to their income or other means of livelihood; subsequently the nuts were sold for Rs. 16,945-1-0. By dryage and shrinkage the loss amounted to 206 khandis, 22 maunds and 13 pounds, or 19·8 per cent., which is undoubtedly large; the price was indifferent, as it represented a fall of over 12 per cent. on the selling prices of the previous year.

163. "*Tarwad bark*" of the *Cassia auriculata* is worked on a rotation of five years, and is sold in the Poona, Sátára and Sholápur divisions for exploitation by the purchasers. Other miscellaneous produce is removed in the same way.